

They are true public servants who've kept us safe and secure, and I thank them. I don't know where I'll be going in retirement, but I look forward to seeing them on the way there.

HONORING VENANCIO CHAVEZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional advocacy and service of community leader Venancio Chavez.

Born on May 18, 1962, in Hidalgo, Mexico, Mr. Chavez immigrated to Santa Ana, California, in 1986, where he soon became a community leader and advocate for educational equity in the Santa Ana Unified School District.

Mr. Chavez advocacy work was conducted through his membership with several Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs). As president of Garfield Elementary's PTA from 1995 to 1998, he worked for better safety and quality of life for the students and parents. He helped plant hedges that served a safety barrier and he also established a community garden.

His leadership continued as a member of the Villa Fundamental Junior High School PTA from 2001 to 2004. During this time, he advocated for equal opportunities for disadvantaged and disabled students. His advocacy led to the creation of the lottery system for incoming students for all fundamental high schools in the City of Santa Ana.

As PTA President at Century High School from 2004 to 2008, he increased parent attendance at PTA meetings by inspiring them to become more involved on campus. Additionally, he spearheaded efforts to create community yard sales to fundraise for the PTA. These efforts afforded the school a lighted marquee to provide seamless communication with parents.

One of his most lasting legacies is the founding of El Sol Science and Arts Academy, which opened in Santa Ana in 2001 with 1,000 students in preschool through eighth grade. El Sol Academy is a leading dual-immersion public charter school that offers an intensive academic instructional program that prepares students for high school and beyond. His goal of providing greater access to high education for Santa Ana's low-income families has been realized as El Sol students have gone on to attend the top colleges and universities throughout our nation.

Mr. Chavez continued his advocacy work with Orange Coast College as President of the school's Extended Opportunity and Services Program. In this position, Mr. Chavez endeavored to bring inclusivity within higher education by fostering community ties through campus engagement and provide students with equitable resources. Student and family engagement increased due to his efforts.

In 2012, Venancio Chavez graduated from Orange Coast College with his Associates degree, with a certificate in Special Education, and he later earned his certificate to become a veterinarian assistant. Mr. Chavez is a volunteer food distributor with Saddleback Church. He also supports the Ebelle Club of Santa Ana and has dedicated more than 25 years of service to the French Park Plaza Homeowners' Association Board of Directors.

Venancio Chavez is a dedicated man who strives to assist anyone who may need help. Through his advocacy and dedication to public service, Mr. Chavez has uplifted his local community and helped improve equity and access to higher education for school children in the City of Santa Ana.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the exceptional advocacy and service of community leader Venancio Chavez.

HONORING THE CAREER OF SHARI BUSH

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Shari Bush and congratulate her on her well-deserved retirement.

Shari is retiring after 21 years at Cypress Bay High School in Weston.

As the BRACE Advisor, Shari was instrumental in helping hundreds of students get accepted to some of the top schools in the country.

She was an invaluable source of higher education guidance for my own children.

Cypress Bay High School has 4,800 students, and 98 percent of them are on track for college.

Shari plays a huge role in that.

Shari is an expert in advising students to apply for scholarships, financial aid, and coach them through all of the stages of college application process, including what schools to apply to, filling out applications, writing essays, testing, and making those critical final decisions.

She traveled to universities throughout the U.S. and abroad and has been hosted at more than 50 college campuses.

Currently, Shari is a member of the Advisory Board for the University of Miami and Florida State University and is a member of the FBI Citizens Academy.

I wish Shari all the best as she moves into the next chapter of her life.

TRUTH CAN PREVAIL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I was grateful today to attend a presentation by Alex Epstein on Energy Opportunity where he fulfilled the introduction of being an "energy expert and philosopher, specializing in how to persuade people to see the truth about energy."

His message was a courageous clarion call of sanity in the midst of energy policy insanity.

Alex is author of two of the best-selling energy books of the last decade: *The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels* and *Fossil Future: Why Global Human Flourishing Requires More Oil, Coal, and Natural Gas—Not Less*.

The presentation was highlighted by common sense, real world, easily understood, thoughtful talking points such as "if Europe's

level of dependence on Russia for natural gas scares you, know this America is even more dependent on China" for components replacing fossil fuels.

His explanation of the lessons on energy policies not only revealed the fallacies of failed policies, but he offers positive solutions confirming being environmentally conscious.

Alex Epstein is a vital resource for Americans who understand the need for energy independence for jobs, national security, and fiscal sanity for American families.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF KATHY MOFFAT

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the exemplary life of Kathy Moffat. Born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, Kathy Moffat has lived her life leading with knowledge, experience, and community connection while serving the City of Orange, California, as an Orange Unified School District (OUSD) Trustee.

In her early years, she attended the University of Nebraska where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. After completing her higher education, she went on to pursue teaching education to the younger generation. She taught upper elementary grades for eight years in the states of Nebraska, Maryland, and Kansas before moving to California.

Kathy and her husband, Duncan, are parents of three grown children, who were all educated in OUSD K–12th grades, and grandparents of seven amazing grandchildren.

Devoted to education and to parent involvement, Kathy has served as a PTA member and leader on the local, state, and national levels for more than 35 years.

Kathy was first elected to the OUSD Board in 2001 in a recall election and then elected to a full term in 2002. She continued to serve on the board for nearly 22 years and has notably been re-elected 5 times.

Moffat's backing of strong academics has resulted in more student access and participation in Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes. Under Kathy's leadership, the district also started providing SAT testing to all interested high school students to decrease the financial burden on families in the City of Orange.

Kathy's community leadership roles include President of the Orange YMCA, Director on the Orange County School Boards Association, Director of the Leadership Orange Program of the Orange Chamber of Commerce, the Orange County Committee on School District Organization, and as an active member of her church.

Recent educational challenges have required dedicated leadership and strong guidance. Due to her impressive background and track record, Kathy Moffat has certainly met those challenges.

A champion of education, she has been a tireless advocate for the students and frequently visits school sites to support those in need. She is said to be one of the best friends' public educations has ever had.